

## **Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council**

Meeting Number 138 (01-14)

January 6, 2014

Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 138 was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. She offered special greetings to community members, and local council members introduced themselves. Members present were Paula Mullis, Doris Carey, Betty Byrne Ron Sollod and James B. Lyons III. Members absent were Bob Frisch, Gloria Moon, Yvonne Baldwin and Vincent Rabenau. Special guests acknowledged by the chair were Joe Sliwka, Community Resource Coordinator, Harford Transit; Councilman Dion Guthrie and Lydia Brennan, aide to Councilman Guthrie. Special thanks were offered to Captain J. Krass of the Sheriff's Office, as well as Fran Salbeck who gave another update on the Joppatowne pool. A motion was called by James B. Lyons III to approve the minutes of the December meeting; Ron Sollod seconded and the minutes were approved.

### **Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report**

Captain Krass provided a crime analysis unit handout for December 2013. He explained that there were many interesting service calls for the previous month. Bullets were fired at four men in Joppatowne. The bullets struck a house and vehicle on Garnett Road. No one was injured in the incident. There is not a lot of information concerning the suspects who remain at large. Captain Krass mentioned that more citizens are calling in their concerns about suspicious or unfamiliar individuals in their communities. He commended community member Judy Rose for her observation of an unfamiliar vehicle in her area. She as well as other community members shared their concern with the Sheriff's Department. Those concerns resulted in an arrest

of the suspect. Captain Krass sent special thanks to the Riverside Elementary School for making ornaments for the precinct's Christmas tree. He said they did an awesome job. He also thanked Home Depot for donating a tree to the precinct.

**Joe Sliwka, Community Resource Coordinator of the Harford County Government Harford Transit**

Joe Sliwka gave an overview of the Harford Transit Link System. He said there are nine public bus routes plus a Regional Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) Route added in 2011. The busses operate Monday through Friday from approximately 6:15 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. He said curb-to-curb service is very popular with the elderly and disabled. Passenger trips were up by over 25,000 from 2010. Of the nine current routes, all busses have bike racks. Some services that the Harford Transit Link offers are the Statewide Special Transit Assistance Program as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act program. Currently the transit system is making routes more efficient by improving system transfer points as well as improving on-time performance. Ticket enhancements are also being improved. Bus stop signage enhancements, improved tracking for demand response, addressing BRAC issues and advertising opportunities are currently being developed. Community member Judy Rose suggested that a survey be put out in communities to see if more public transportation is needed. She would like to see more busses and fewer cars on the roads in the county. Mr. Sliwka said Harford Transit continues to plan for the future. He said there is not enough money to expand services at this time but will consider doing a survey. Chairperson Paula Mullis thanked Mr. Sliwka for his presentation.

**Fran Salbeck – Save the Pool Update**

Fran Salbeck shared several emails received concerning the fate of the Joppatowne Pool. She said their group is still busy collecting signatures. Fran also praised and thanked Councilman Guthrie for the hard work he is doing to save the pool.

**County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie**

Councilman Dion Guthrie stated that the purchasing of the Joppatowne pool has been a big mess. He has been working on the project since the summer. He said the property has everything going for it to make a community center for the Joppa/Joppatowne community. All of the other areas of the county have a center. He said that the Joppatowne land is a prime piece of property and should have been a priority. County Executive David Craig spent \$700,000 to buy a 0.8 acre parcel of waterfront property in his hometown instead of buying the former Mariner Point Swim Club property in Joppatowne. Dion shared what it takes to clean up the contaminated property purchased by the County Executive. He said that Joppatowne has been betrayed. It looks as though the purchase of the pool property is dead in the water. He thanked everyone for their tireless work to save the pool.

**Community Updates from Community Council Members**

James B. Lyons III discussed installation of new officers in the fire company. Awards will be presented to those who successfully saved individuals. He was especially pleased that an award will be given to a young cadet who saved a baby.

Ron Sollod again reminded community members about safety in the home and encouraged all to review the emergency tips he previously provided.

Betty Byrne reminded all about Bingo at the fire hall on Wednesday nights.

Chairperson Paula Mullis thanked everyone who braved the cold weather to come out to the meeting. A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Doris G. Carey, Secretary